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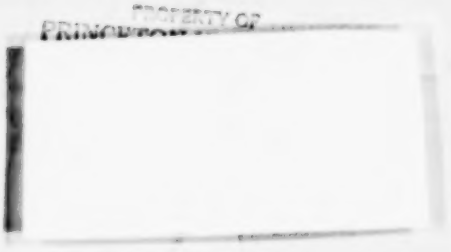


UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

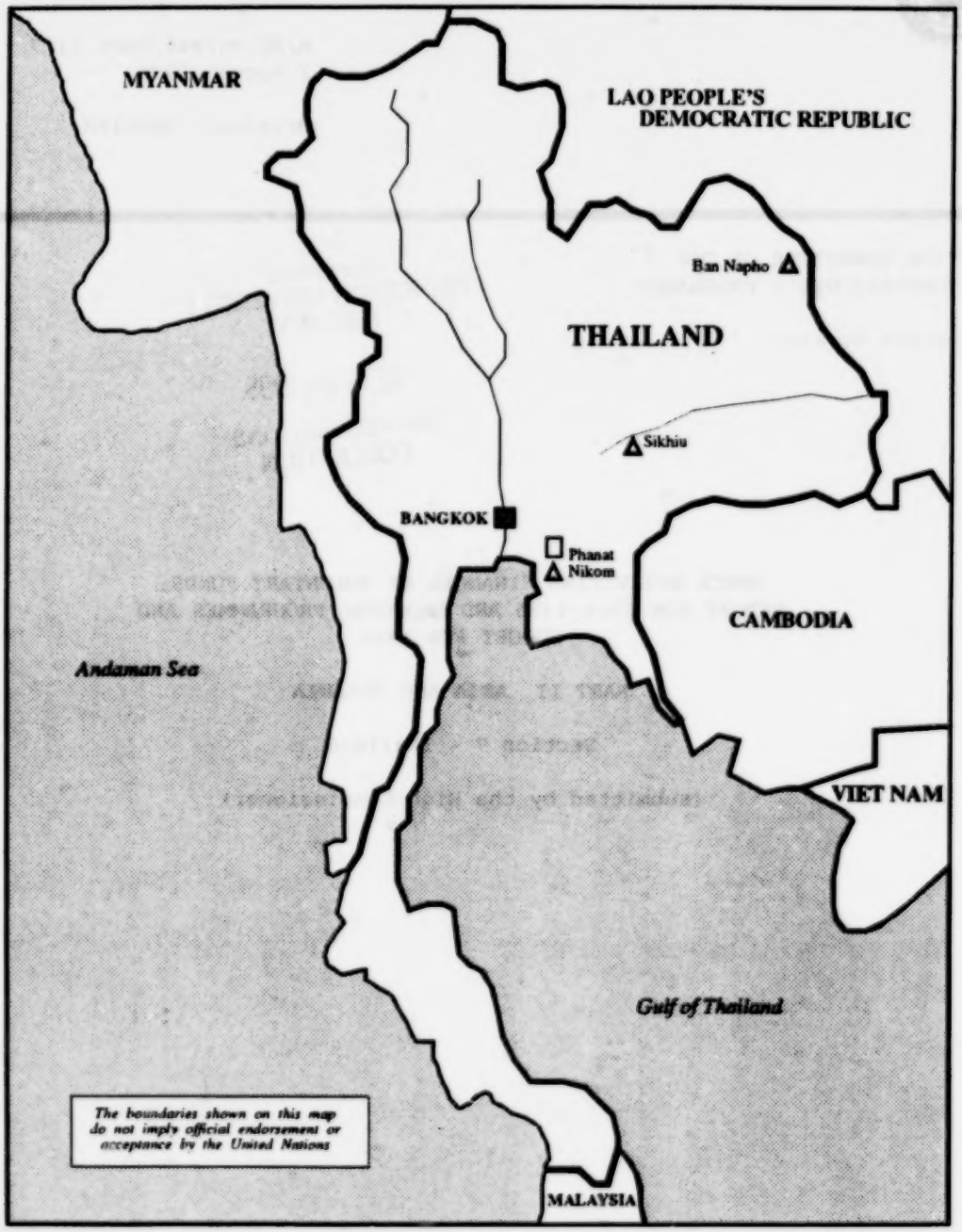
PART II. ASIA AND OCEANIA

Section 7 - Thailand

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02451

THAILAND


MYANMAR
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Ban Napho
THAILAND
Sikhiu
BANGKOK
Phanat Nikom
CAMBODIA
Andaman Sea
VIET NAM
Gulf of Thailand
The boundaries shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations
MALAYSIA
0
200
Km.
Capital
Camp or holding centre for refugees or displaced persons
Transit centre

II.7 THAILAND

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994 there were 18,060 Indo-Chinese refugees, asylum-seekers and screened-out asylum-seekers assisted by UNHCR, which represents a more than 50 per cent reduction compared to the end of 1993, when there were 36,600 such persons. The Indo-Chinese population comprised 11,924 Lao, 6,121 Vietnamese and 15 Cambodians. The Vietnamese population consisted of 4,556 boat people and 1,565 other Vietnamese, while the Lao population comprised 10,393 highland and 1,531 lowland Lao. The Indo-Chinese population was sheltered in the Ban Napho, Phanat Nikhom and Sikhiu refugee camps. In addition, 2,928 non-Indo-Chinese, the vast majority of whom were from Myanmar (2,550), were living in urban areas and assisted by UNHCR, with the exception of a small group of about 175 Myanmar refugees who lived in a semi-open camp, the so-called safe area. A further 80,000 Myanmar refugees, 97 per cent of whom belong to mainly Karen but also Mon and Karenni ethnic minority groups, were stranded on the border between Thailand and Myanmar and were not receiving UNHCR assistance.

2. At 31 May 1995, the number of Indo-Chinese in Thailand had decreased to 13,038 (7,541 Lao, 5,488 Vietnamese and 9 Cambodians). Over half of the Lao caseload are children, about 21 per cent are women and about 23 per cent are men. Of the Vietnamese caseload, men constitute about 45 per cent, women 25 per cent, and children 30 per cent. The number of non-Indo-Chinese assisted by UNHCR remained rather stable, at 2,991, of whom 2,632 were from Myanmar. Single young men comprise some 70 per cent of the Myanmar urban caseload. With regard to the refugees along the border between Myanmar and Thailand, their number rose to 87,119 as a result of Myanmar Army attacks on the Karen border encampments. This border population is comprised of about 40 per cent children, 30 per cent women and 30 per cent men.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

3. As a result of activities by the Myanmar Army, the student dissident headquarters was overrun in December 1994, followed some weeks later by the fall of Manerplaw (the Headquarters of the Karen National Union (KNU) and of the various ethnic/political alliances) in January 1995 and Kawmoorah (the principal military base of the KNU) in February.

4. These developments led to the influx of 8,000 to 10,000 Karen and Burmese refugees into Thailand. They are currently being accommodated in sites along the Thai border in Mae Hong Son, Tak and Kanchanaburi provinces. These people are being assisted by the Thai Government and local and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The Government has stated that the refugees will be provided with temporary protection in Thailand until such time as conditions in Myanmar are conducive to their voluntary return.

5. UNHCR, for its part, has increased the number of missions to the Thai/Myanmar border in order to better monitor the protection and welfare of the refugees. These missions have been facilitated by the Thai Government, with whom an ongoing dialogue has been maintained. The 87,119 Myanmar nationals who were along

the Thai/Myanmar border or on the Thai side of the border as of 31 May 1995 continue to receive assistance through the Burmese Border Consortium, which is composed of five NGOs.

6. Regarding the "safe area", it is envisaged to slightly increase its capacity during 1995 to better meet the assistance and protection needs of the beneficiaries.

7. Two new influxes of Cambodian refugees occurred in March and April 1994. In both cases the refugees were given humanitarian aid for a few days by the Thai authorities and were subsequently returned to Cambodia on the grounds that the hostilities had ceased. Contrary to events surrounding the first influx, UNHCR was given access to the second influx, was able to provide humanitarian assistance and was satisfied that the return was voluntary and without risk.

8. The sixth meeting of the Steering Committee on 16 March 1995 confirmed the end of 1995 as the target date to complete CPA (Comprehensive Plan of Action for Indo-Chinese Refugees) activities for Vietnamese and Lao in Thailand, which has set the pattern for increased voluntary repatriation. The Lao repatriation has been enhanced further through a successful seventh tripartite meeting between the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Thailand and UNHCR which took place in Pattaya, Thailand, from 26 to 29 July 1994, followed by two tripartite working meetings in November 1994 and March 1995. The eighth tripartite meeting will take place in Lao People's Democratic Republic during 1995.

9. During 1994, no new arrivals were registered for Lao and Indo-Chinese; 2,328 Vietnamese and a record number of 5,172 Lao repatriated voluntarily.

10. During the first five months of 1995, only 384 Vietnamese returned to Viet Nam while 1,672 Lao returned to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. The present difficulties in promoting durable solutions for the remaining Indo-Chinese caseload in Thailand, which result from recent developments in the United States, will make it difficult to reach the objectives agreed upon during the last Steering Committee.

11. Within the framework of camp consolidation, the Phanat Nikom camp is scheduled for closure in mid 1995.

3. 1996 country programmes

(a) Objectives

(i) Indo-Chinese

12. Within the framework of the CPA, emphasis will continue to be placed on the successful implementation of durable solutions for Lao and Vietnamese. Despite the fact that the target date for the completion of the CPA is the end of 1995, it is anticipated that a residual caseload of up to 4,900 Vietnamese and up to 5,000 Lao may still require UNHCR assistance in early 1996 pending their voluntary

repatriation during the course of 1996. However, these objectives may have to be revised later in view of the delays that the introduction of a draft bill in the United States has recently caused to repatriation movements, particularly of Vietnamese.

13. Meanwhile the implementation of necessary services in such sectors as food, water, health and education will continue to be maintained at acceptable levels. There are no plans, however, for the construction of any new buildings, water supplies or other types of infrastructure. Efforts will continue to be made to direct activities, services and training toward voluntary repatriation. Efforts will also be made to promote the participation and involvement of women as refugee representatives and to provide information and training according to women's needs.

14. Lao and Vietnamese will be sheltered in the Ban Naphc and Sikhiu camps only, due to the closure of Phanat Nikhom camp in mid 1995 within the framework of camp consolidation.

(ii) Non-Indo-Chinese

15. It is assumed that, despite the unstable situation in Myanmar, there will be no new arrivals of refugees/asylum-seekers. Limited provisions have been made for assistance needs of the Myanmar caseload in the "safe area" in Ratchaburi province; these may be expanded. In addition, UNHCR will continue to assist the small urban caseload of non-Indo-Chinese refugees and asylum-seekers. Assistance will include a monthly allowance, medical, social services and mental health/counselling services, education and vocational skills training.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

16. Budgets presented for 1996 have been prepared based on the assumption that the end of 1995 is the target date for the completion of CPA activities. Budgetary adjustments may be required depending on the need to revise plans in light of recent developments.

(i) General Programmes

17. Care and maintenance for Indo-Chinese will continue throughout 1996 pending the successful implementation of durable solutions. The estimated number of Indo-Chinese beneficiaries in 1996 will be 4,800.

18. The small urban caseload of non-Indo-Chinese will continue to receive assistance that includes monthly living allowances, medical and mental health/counselling services, education and vocational training.

19. The Myanmar refugees sheltered in the "safe area" will also benefit from limited UNHCR assistance. The estimated number of beneficiaries will be 2,900 in 1996.

20. The breakdown of care and maintenance assistance in 1995 and 1996 is as follows (in dollars):

Sector	Initial 1995	Revised 1995	Initial 1996
Food	508,841	359,377	227,642
Transport	221,181	209,235	225,042
Domestic needs	2,855,889	2,836,593	2,782,792
Water	89,803	76,675	102,190
Sanitation	100,670	159,163	240,707
Health	666,731	569,554	543,429
Shelter	267,561	241,430	218,277
Community services	134,479	79,348	137,597
Education	158,855	100,591	89,428
Legal assistance	49,985	69,561	84,824
Agency op. support	928,405	493,173	1,228,972
Total	5,982,400	5,194,700	5,880,900

(c) Implementing Partners

21. The Operations Centre for Displaced Persons (OCDP) of the Thai Ministry of Interior (MOI) is UNHCR's principal implementing partner. Voluntary agencies which work in the refugee camps sign agreements with and receive funding directly from MOI. Regarding UNHCR-funded projects, there are seven voluntary agencies which are funded by UNHCR, with the agreements/funding being made first between UNHCR to MOI, and then made between MOI and the voluntary agencies. These seven agencies are: Catholic Office for Emergency Relief and Refugees (COERR), International Rescue Committee (IRC), Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Save the Children Federation-USA, the Thai Red Cross Society, ZOA Refugee Care Netherlands and the American Refugee Committee.

22. As far as the non-Indo-Chinese caseload is concerned, the Bangkok urban caseload receives assistance through the Foundation in Support of Refugee Assistance and Programme in Thailand (FISRAPT) a UNHCR-funded Thai voluntary agency.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

23. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

24. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates mainly due to the gradual scaling down of UNHCR operations in Thailand, which resulted in a number of post reductions. In addition, several posts became vacant in advance of proposed

discontinuation dates. There was a lower than expected expenditure in travel, general operating expenses, and office supplies and materials due to the accelerated scaling down of the office.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

25. The revised 1995 requirements are lower than initial estimates mainly because of further scaling down of the office. The Phanat Nikhom camp is scheduled to close by the end of June 1995 and nine posts will be discontinued.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

26. The 1996 initial requirements are lower than 1995 revised due to the expected closure of Ban Napho and Sikhiu camps. A further reduction of eleven posts is projected for the end of June 1996.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN THAILAND

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
5,423.5	5,982.4	5,194.7	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	5,880.9
6.8 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
19.0 a/	–	–	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	–
2,330.8	2,253.5	1,829.4	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,651.8
7,780.1	8,235.9	7,024.1	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	7,532.7
408.3	342.9	407.4	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	361.1
8,188.4	8,578.8	7,431.5	TOTAL (1)	7,893.8
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
			CAMBODIA REPATRIATION	
9.1	71.5	14.8	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	9.8
47.7	–	–	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
3,734.8	1,766.9	2,031.6	COMPREHENSIVE PLAN OF ACTION	–
398.6	327.2	488.2	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	220.1
			OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
35.8	–	–	Various Assistance	–
1,753.3			Extra–budgetary food	
			SRI LANKA RETURNEE PROGRAMME	
103.5	150.5	100.9	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	45.4
51.0	35.0	18.5	Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	18.5
6,133.8	2,351.1	2,654.0	TOTAL (2)	293.8
14,322.2	10,929.9	10,085.5	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	8,187.6

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes